

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/088,487  
Response dated April 6, 2004  
Reply to OA of January 12, 2004

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A sliding bearing ~~wherein~~ comprising an overlay, ~~which~~ consists consisting of at least one solid lubricant and a binder resin, said overlay covers an aluminum-alloy bearing layer bonded on backing metal, and ~~characterized in that~~ said overlay consists of an upper layer comprising said ~~layer, which contains the~~ solid lubricant ~~essentially~~ consisting essentially of MoS<sub>2</sub>, and a lower layer, ~~which consists~~ consisting of one or both of at least one solid lubricant and at least one hard additive, ~~(when wherein when said the solid lubricant of the~~ said lower layer is MoS<sub>2</sub>, its content is relatively lower than that of ~~the~~ said upper layer ~~layer~~).

**Claim 2 (Original):** A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the upper layer is from 40 to 95 mass %.

**Claim 3 (Original):** A sliding bearing according to claim 2, wherein the content of the solid lubricant and hard additive of said lower layer is from 30 to 85 mass %.

**Claim 4 (Original):** A sliding bearing according to claim 3, wherein said lower layer contains only the solid lubricant.

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**Claim 5 (Original):** A sliding bearing according to claim 4, wherein said solid lubricant is MoS<sub>2</sub>.

**Claim 6 (Original):** A sliding bearing according to claim 5, wherein the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of said upper layer is more than the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of said lower layer by 10 mass % or more.

**Claim 7 (Original):** A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein the hard additive of said lower layer is at least one selected from the group consisting of Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>, SiC and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>.

**Claim 8 (Previously Presented):** A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said upper layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the upper sub-layer is more than the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the lower sub-layer.

**Claim 9 (Previously Presented):** A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said lower layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different additive amount.